UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY FOR STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

The University of Essex is committed to maintaining a professional working and learning environment and to ensuring that the use of alcohol and/or drugs does not have an adverse effect on the working and social conditions of University students, staff and visitors. The University recognises that alcohol and drugs will play a part in the lives of some people and will be sympathetic to problems arising from misuse of these substances whilst not condoning such misuse. This document is designed to inform you of the University’s Policy in relation to these issues.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Members of the University community contribute in creating an environment in which everyone can live, study and socialise free from inappropriate disturbance. Anti-social behaviour resulting from alcohol or drug use is unacceptable and may be grounds for disciplinary action including exclusion from the University.

It is a breach of University Regulations to use or knowingly possess within the University any controlled drug as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Disciplinary Regulation 13.2.F.14)

Any student who is concerned about their use of alcohol or drugs is encouraged to seek advice. The University will regard anyone seeking support as having a health problem and will provide assistance to enable appropriate help or treatment to be accessed.

The University will allow reasonable absences for advice and/or treatment as ‘sick leave’ and will take this into account when assessing course work and exam results, provided you have kept the department informed of your progress and it is clear that you are attempting to resolve any difficulties you may have. There will be no unnecessary disclosure of information and to ensure that your right to confidentiality is respected only your Head of Department or Scheme Director and your Senior Adviser or equivalent will be notified.

REPORTING CONCERNS

If you believe that someone has a difficulty in controlling their use of alcohol or drugs you should encourage them to seek support. If you are concerned that they are a danger to themselves or others it is recommended that you inform a senior member of staff or discuss your concerns with someone from the Student Support Office or the Students’ Union Advice Centre.

Students or staff may become aware of, or suspect, drug use or supply on campus. In such situations you can report your concerns to the Patrol Staff at the Information Centre who are available on the Colchester campus 24 hours a day and who will take full details. It should be noted that action against students by the police or the University is unlikely to be taken on the basis of anonymous reports or unsubstantiated allegations. The University will take advice from Essex Police when considering appropriate action and the University reserves the right to invite the police to make spot checks on University premises where there is suspicion of persistent drug usage or dealing.
THE UNIVERSITY AND THE LAW

The University has a legal responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for students, staff and visitors and will take appropriate steps to ensure this environment is established and maintained.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Under this Act it is an offence for the occupier of premises or a person concerned in the management of premises to knowingly allow certain activities including the smoking of cannabis and/or the unlawful supply of a controlled drug to another person.

The University will take appropriate action if such incidents occur and will refer these to the Police.

Alcohol Licensing Act 1964

The supply and consumption of alcohol are subject to the restrictions of the Act. Licence holders have a legal duty to manage premises responsibly and have the authority to ban people for their anti-social behaviour from bars and other social places where alcohol is on sale. Any events organised are also required to be managed responsibly.

THE LAW AND YOU

Drugs

The consequences which can result from a Police caution or prosecution for the possession or trafficking of illegal drugs are not limited to fines and prison sentences. A criminal record can have a serious impact on employment prospects, particularly for professions such as law, teaching or medicine. Even your travel plans can be affected as you may be denied a visa to enter certain countries, such as the United States of America, if you have been cautioned or convicted for a drugs related offence.

Alcohol

A criminal record arising from drunken behaviour can also have a serious impact on employment. Receiving a police caution for drunk or disorderly conduct should not be treated lightly as this could have an adverse effect on your future career.

All students who are convicted of a criminal offence are referred to the University Disciplinary Committee which has the authority to exclude a student from the University.

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

The University will undertake to provide accurate and realistic information about the health and social issues arising out of drug and alcohol use and misuse. The focus will be on minimising harm and emphasising support networks and access to reliable sources of information.

If you are concerned that someone is extremely drunk or having a bad experience following the use of drugs and/or alcohol do not hesitate to call one of the Patrol Staff immediately. They are trained first aiders and are skilled in responding to these situations. They will know if medical help is required.

Staff in the Students’ Union Advice Centre, the Student Support Office and the Counselling Service can offer advice, information and support. There are also a number of agencies in the local areas providing a range of services.
UNIVERSITY BASED SERVICES, Colchester Campus  
Internal telephone Numbers  
(callers from outside the Colchester campus should prefix the number below with (01206) 87.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Centre</td>
<td>2125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Support Office</td>
<td>2366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselling Service</td>
<td>3133</td>
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<td>Students’ Union Advice Centre</td>
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<td>Nightline</td>
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<td>Health Centre</td>
<td>3699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Faith Centre - Counsellor</td>
<td>3108</td>
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ALCOHOL RELATED ISSUES

Alcoholics Anonymous  Chelmsford  01245 256147  
http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

Al Anon  National No.  020 7403 0888  
(for friends and relatives)  www.al-anonuk.org.uk

Drinkline  National  0800 9178282

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL RELATED ISSUES

National Drugs Helpline  National No.  0800 776600  
www.talktofrank.com

Release  National No.  0207 729 9904/5255  
www.release.org.uk

Needsas  Colchester  01206 287251  
(North East Essex Drugs and Alcohol Service)

Open Road  Colchester  01206 766096  
www.openroad.org.uk/colchester.htm

General Information Website (Colchester)  
www.colchester-drug-alcohol.org.uk/get_help.htm

Southend Drug and Alcohol Advice and Treatment Service  Southend  01702 578230

ADAS (Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service)  Harlow  01279 438716  
www.adasuk.org

University of Essex Student Support Updated November 2006